

## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

### Listing of Claims:

- 1           1. (Currently amended) A method for retrieving target objects stored in a  
2 relational database to which an object model is mapped, the method comprising  
3 steps of:  
4           generating a retrieval query to read target objects for a collection of source  
5 objects, the collection of source objects having many-to-many relationships with  
6 the target objects, the collection of source objects and target objects being  
7 respectively stored in one or more source tables and target tables in the database,  
8 and the many-to-many relationship being defined in the database by using an  
9 intermediate join table of the source tables and the target tables, wherein the  
10 retrieval query is generated by:  
11                     obtaining a source expression tree relating to the collection  
12                     of the source objects;  
13                     building a target expression tree defined by the many-to-  
14                     many mapping including a join between the target tables and the  
15                     join table;  
16                     combining the source expression tree and the target  
17                     expression tree to produce a combined expression tree; and  
18                     generating the retrieval query based on the combined  
19                     expression tree;

20           selecting join table information from the many-to-many join table relating  
21 to the collection of source objects and the target objects to enable matching of the  
22 target objects and the source objects using the join table information; and  
23           retrieving the matched target objects by executing the retrieval query on  
24 the database;  
25           wherein retrieving the matched target objects involves automatically  
26 generating the query, and wherein the matched target objects include only many-  
27 to-many target objects, whereby the matched target objects can be retrieved  
28 without requiring the user to provide an explicit list of the matched target objects.

1           2. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 1 further comprising steps  
2 of:  
3           specifying batch readable relationships on a source query for reading the  
4 collection of source objects;  
5           generating a nested query for reading related objects nested in the target  
6 objects;  
7           appending query information of the target objects to the nested query; and  
8           retrieving the related objects by executing the nested query.

1           3. (Canceled).

1           4. (Currently amended) The method as claimed in claim ~~13~~ wherein the  
2 target expression tree building step obtains the target expression tree from  
3 mapping meta-data which contains information as to how object classes and  
4 relationships of the object model map to tables and foreign keys in the database.

1           5. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 4 wherein the target  
2 expression tree building step obtains the target expression tree from mapping

3 meta-data which includes a list of key and value pairs of the many-to-many join  
4 table.

1 6. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the selecting step  
2 comprises steps of:  
3 executing the retrieval query on the database for reading the target objects;  
4 obtaining target object information and join table information from the  
5 join table; and  
6 appending the target object information and the join table information to  
7 the retrieval query.

1 7. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 6 wherein the join table  
2 information including foreign key values and the appending step appends the  
3 foreign key values to the retrieval query.

1 8. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 6 wherein the appending step  
2 appends the target table information and the join table information to a select  
3 clause of a select statement.

1 9. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 6 wherein the retrieving step  
2 comprises steps of:  
3 obtaining the target objects; and  
4 populating relationships of the source objects with the target objects by  
5 comparing a primary key value of each source object with a foreign key value of  
6 each target object using the foreign key values stored in the retrieval query; and  
7 matching each source object with matched target objects.

1           10. (Currently amended) A method for retrieving objects stored in a  
2 relational database to which an object model is mapped, the method comprising  
3 steps of:  
4           obtaining nested specification information representing joins relating to a  
5 source object and related objects which are joined with the source object with  
6 multi-level relationships, the source object and related objects being respectively  
7 stored in one or more source tables and target tables in the database, and the  
8 multi-level relationship being defined in the database by using an intermediate  
9 join table of the source tables and the target tables;  
10          obtaining parent query information representing a parent query for reading  
11 one or more parent objects at a parent level;  
12          generating a nested query for querying objects of next lower level which is  
13 next lower than the parent level, wherein the nested query is generated by:  
14               obtaining a source expression tree relating to the source  
15               object;  
16               building a target expression tree defined by the multi-level  
17               relationship including a join between the target tables and the join  
18               table;  
19               combining the source expression tree and the target  
20               expression tree to produce a combined expression tree; and  
21               generating the nested query based on the combined  
22               expression tree;  
23          appending to the nested query the parent query information and the joins  
24 using the nested specification information; and  
25          retrieving the objects of next lower level by executing the nested query on  
26 the database;  
27          wherein retrieving the objects involves automatically generating the nested  
28 query, and wherein the objects include only many-to-many target objects, whereby

29 the objects can be retrieved without requiring the user to provide an explicit list of  
30 the objects.

1 11. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 10, wherein the nested  
2 specification obtaining step obtains the nested specification information from  
3 mapping meta-data which contains information as to how object classes and  
4 relationships of the object model map to tables and foreign keys in the database.

1 12. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 10 further comprising a  
2 step of specifying batch readable relationships to the parent query for allowing  
3 batch reading of the related objects.

1 13. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 12, wherein the specifying  
2 step comprises a step of determining the batch readable relationships based on the  
3 nested specification.

1 14. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 10 further comprising a  
2 step of setting automatic batch reading for automatically generating the nested  
3 query for reading objects of lower levels.

1 15. (Canceled).

1 16. (Canceled).

1 17. (Currently amended) A computer-retrieval system for retrieving target  
2 objects stored in a relational database to which an object model is mapped, the  
3 computer-retrieval system comprising:

4 a query generator for generating a retrieval query to read target objects for  
5 a collection of source objects, the collection of source objects having many-to-  
6 many relationships with the target objects, the collection of source objects and  
7 target objects being respectively stored in one or more source tables and target  
8 tables in the database, and the many-to-many relationship being defined in the  
9 database by using an intermediate join table of the source tables and the target  
10 tables, wherein the query generator generates the retrieval query by:

11 obtaining a source expression tree relating to the collection  
12 of the source objects;

13 building a target expression tree defined by the many-to-  
14 many mapping including a join between the target tables and the  
15 join table;

16 combining the source expression tree and the target  
17 expression tree to produce a combined expression tree; and

18 generating the retrieval query based on the combined  
19 expression tree;

20 a join table information handler for selecting join table information from  
21 the many-to-many join table relating to the collection of source objects and the  
22 target objects to enable matching of the target objects and the source objects using  
23 the join table information; and

24 a batch reading handler for retrieving the matched target objects by  
25 executing the retrieval query on the database;

26 wherein retrieving the matched target objects involves automatically  
27 generating the query, and wherein the matched target objects include only many-  
28 to-many target objects, whereby the matched target objects can be retrieved  
29 without requiring the user to provide an explicit list of the matched target objects.

1 18. (Canceled).

1           19. (Canceled).

1           20. (Currently amended) The ~~computer retrieval~~ system as claimed in  
2   claim 17, wherein  
3           the join table information handler obtains target object information and  
4   join table information from the join table; and  
5           the batch reading handler appends to the retrieval query target object  
6   information and the join table information.

1           21. (Currently amended) The ~~computer retrieval~~ system as claimed in  
2   claim 20, wherein the join table information handler obtains foreign key values.

1           22. (Currently amended) The ~~computer retrieval~~ system as claimed in  
2   claim 21, wherein the batch reading handler appends the foreign key values to the  
3   retrieval query.

1           23. (Currently amended) The ~~computer retrieval~~ system as claimed in  
2   claim 22, wherein the batch reading handler has a comparator for comparing a  
3   primary key value of each source object with a foreign key value of each target  
4   object using the foreign key values appended to the retrieval query; and matching  
5   each source object with matched target objects.

1           24. (Currently amended) A ~~computer retrieving~~ system for retrieving  
2   objects stored in a relational database to which an object model is mapped, the  
3   ~~computer retrieval~~ system comprising:  
4           an information receiver for obtaining nested specification information  
5   representing joins relating to the source object and related objects which are  
6   joined with the source object with multi-level relationships, the source object and

7 related objects being respectively stored in one or more source tables and target  
8 tables in the database, and the multi-level relationship being defined in the  
9 database by using an intermediate join table of the source tables and the target  
10 tables;  
11 a query generator for generating a nested query for querying objects of  
12 next lower level to parent objects which are queried by a parent query, wherein the  
13 query generator generates the nested query by:  
14 obtaining a source expression tree relating to the source  
15 object;  
16 building a target expression tree defined by the multi-level  
17 relationship including a join between the target tables and the join  
18 table;  
19 combining the source expression tree and the target  
20 expression tree to produce a combined expression tree; and  
21 generating the nested query based on the combined  
22 expression tree; and  
23 a batch reading handler for appending to the nested query information of  
24 the parent query and the joins using the nested specification information, and  
25 retrieving the objects of next lower level by executing the nested query on the  
26 database;  
27 wherein retrieving the objects involves automatically generating the nested  
28 query, and wherein the objects include only many-to-many target objects, whereby  
29 the objects can be retrieved without requiring the user to provide an explicit list of  
30 the objects.

1 25. (Currently amended) The computer-retrieval system as claimed in  
2 claim 24, wherein the information receiver obtains the nested specification  
3 information from mapping meta-data which contains information as to how object



4 classes and relationships of the object model map to tables and foreign keys in the  
5 database.

1 | 26. (Currently amended) The computer-retrieval system as claimed in  
2 claim 24, wherein the batch reading handler has a batch reading setter for  
3 allowing batch reading of the related objects.

1 | 27. (Currently amended) The computer-retrieval system as claimed in  
2 claim 26, wherein the batch reading setter specifies batch readable relationships  
3 to the parent query for allowing batch reading.

1 | 28. (Currently amended) The computer-retrieval system as claimed in  
2 claim 27, wherein the batch reading setter determines the batch readable  
3 relationships based on the nested specification.

1 | 29. (Currently amended) The computer-retrieval system as claimed in  
2 claim 26, wherein the batch reading setter sets automatic batch reading for  
3 automatically generating the nested query for reading objects of lower levels.

1 30 (Canceled).

1 31. (Currently amended) Computer media storing the instructions or  
2 statements for use in the execution in a computer of a method ~~method~~ for  
3 retrieving target objects stored in a relational database to which an object model is  
4 mapped, the method comprising steps of:  
5 generating a retrieval query to read target objects for a collection of source  
6 objects, the collection of source objects having many-to-many relationships with  
7 the target objects, the collection of source objects and target objects being

8 respectively stored in one or more source tables and target tables in the database,  
9 and the many-to-many relationship being defined in the database by using an  
10 intermediate join table of the source tables and the target tables, wherein the  
11 retrieval query is generated by:  
12                               obtaining a source expression tree relating to the collection  
13                               of the source objects;  
14                               building a target expression tree defined by the many-to-  
15                               many mapping including a join between the target tables and the  
16                               join table;  
17                               combining the source expression tree and the target  
18                               expression tree to produce a combined expression tree; and  
19                               generating the retrieval query based on the combined  
20                               expression tree;  
21       -selecting join table information from the many-to-many join table relating  
22 to the collection of source object and the target objects to enable matching of the  
23 target objects and the source objects using the join table information; retrieving  
24 the matched target objects by executing the retrieval query on the database;  
25       wherein retrieving the matched target objects involves automatically  
26 generating the query, and wherein the matched target objects include only many-  
27 to-many target objects, whereby the matched target objects can be retrieved  
28 without requiring the user to provide an explicit list of the matched target objects.

1               32. (Canceled).

1               33. (Currently amended) A computer program product executing within  
2 for use in the execution in a computer a of method for retrieving target objects  
3 stored in a relational database to which an object model is mapped, the product  
4 comprising:

5 a module for generating a retrieval query to read target objects for a  
6 collection of source objects, the collection of source objects having many-to-many  
7 relationships with the target objects, the collection of source objects and target  
8 objects being respectively stored in one or more source tables and target tables in  
9 the database, and the many-to-many relationship being defined in the database by  
10 using an intermediate join table of the source tables and the target tables, wherein  
11 the module for generating the retrieval query generates the retrieval query by:  
12 obtaining a source expression tree relating to the collection  
13 of the source objects;  
14 building a target expression tree defined by the many-to-  
15 many mapping including a join between the target tables and the  
16 join table;  
17 combining the source expression tree and the target  
18 expression tree to produce a combined expression tree; and  
19 generating the retrieval query based on the combined  
20 expression tree;  
21 a module of selecting join table information for the many-to-many join  
22 table relating to the collection of source objects and the target objects to enable  
23 matching of the target objects and the source objects using the join table  
24 information;  
25 a module for retrieving the matched target objects by executing the  
26 retrieval query on the database;  
27 wherein retrieving the matched target objects involves automatically  
28 generating the query, and wherein the matched target objects include only many-  
29 to-many target objects, whereby the matched target objects can be retrieved  
30 without requiring the user to provide an explicit list of the matched target objects.

1           34. (Currently amended) Computer media storing the instructions or  
2 statements for use in the execution in a computer of a method for retrieving  
3 objects stored in a relational database to which an object model is mapped, the  
4 method comprising steps of:  
5           obtaining nested specification information representing joins relating to  
6 the source object and related objects which are joined with the source object with  
7 multi-level relationships, the source object and related objects being respectively  
8 stored in one or more source tables and target tables in the database, and the  
9 multi-level relationship being defined in the database by using an intermediate  
10 join table of the source tables and the target tables;  
11           obtaining parent query information representing a parent query for reading  
12 one or more parent objects at a parent level;  
13           generating a nested query for querying objects of next lower level which is  
14 next lower than the parent level, wherein the nested query is generated by:  
15                     obtaining a source expression tree relating to the source  
16                     object;  
17                     building a target expression tree defined by the multi-level  
18                     relationship including a join between the target tables and the join  
19                     table;  
20                     combining the source expression tree and the target  
21                     expression tree to produce a combined expression tree; and  
22                     generating the nested query based on the combined  
23                     expression tree;  
24           appending to the nested query the parent query information and the joins  
25 using the nested specification information; and  
26           retrieving the object of next lower level by executing the nested query on  
27 the database;

28           wherein retrieving the objects involves automatically generating the nested  
29 query, and wherein the objects include only many-to-many target objects, whereby  
30 the objects can be retrieved without requiring the user to provide an explicit list of  
31 the retrieved objects.

1           35. (Canceled).

1           36. (Currently amended) A computer program product executing within  
2 ~~for use in the execution in~~ a computer ~~a~~ of method for retrieving objects stored in  
3 a relational database to which an object model is mapped, the product comprising:  
4           a module for obtaining nested specification information representing joins  
5 relating to the source object and related objects which are joined with the source  
6 object with multi-level relationships, the source object and the related objects  
7 being respectively stored in one or more source tables and target tables in the  
8 database, and the multi-level relationship being defined in the database by using  
9 an intermediate join table of the source tables and the target tables;  
10          a module for obtaining parent query information representing a parent  
11 query for reading one or more parent objects at a parent level;  
12          a module for generating a nested query for querying objects of next lower  
13 level which is next lower than the parent level, wherein the module for generating  
14 the nested query generates the nested query by:  
15                               obtaining a source expression tree relating to the source  
16                               object;  
17                               building a target expression tree defined by the multi-level  
18                               relationship including a join between the target tables and the join  
19                               table;  
20                               combining the source expression tree and the target  
21                               expression tree to produce a combined expression tree; and

22                                   generating the nested query based on the combined  
23                                   expression tree;  
24                   a module for appending to the nested query the parent query information  
25   and the joins using the nested specification information; and  
26                   a module for retrieving the objects of next lower level by executing the  
27   nested query on the database;  
28                   wherein retrieving the objects involves automatically generating the nested  
29   query, and wherein the objects include only many-to-many target objects, whereby  
30   the objects can be retrieved without requiring the user to provide an explicit list of  
31   the retrieved objects.